

HOUSE BILL 2345
By Ferguson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, relative to local correctional facilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 41-4-143.

(a) No jail, lock-up, workhouse or other local correctional facility shall accept any compensation or reimbursement from a telecommunication service provider for furnishing telecommunication services to such facilities.

(b) No jail, lock-up, workhouse or other local correctional facility shall impose any fee or cost upon any inmate solely for the use of a telecommunications device.

(c) For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Telecommunication device" means any type of instrument, device, machine or equipment that is capable of transmitting or receiving telephonic, electronic or radio communications, or any part of such instrument, device, machine or equipment, or any computer circuit, computer chip, electronic mechanism or other component that is capable of facilitating the transmission or reception of telephonic, electronic or radio communications;

(2) "Telecommunication service" means any service provided for a charge or compensation to facilitate the origination, transmission, emission or reception of signs, signals, data, writings, images, sounds or intelligence of any nature of

telephone, including cellular or other wireless telephones, wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic or photo-optical system; and

(3) "Telecommunication service provider" means a person or entity providing telecommunication service, including a cellular, paging or other wireless communications company or other person or entity which, for a fee, supplies the facility, cell site, mobile telephone switching office or other equipment or telecommunication service.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.